

## Chubu Electric Power Art Declaration

Final version (August 25, 2009), disclosed on March 13, 2011

It has been approximately half a century since human beings started to consider their future on the assumption that there would always be a constant supply of electricity. This assumption created the modern concept that the various global crises caused by technology can only be resolved by technology, which means a single “belief” spread all over the world. At the same time, it created a totally new era where people’s ideas about their responsibilities and their children’s future were “developed into even further progress in technology.” We accept this situation as an undeniable fact; however, in order to be conscious and critical of this fact, we have named this stage in the development of human history “Electrical Civilization” and we call general creation using various audiovisual and computing devices “Expression With/By Devices.”

Among other aspects, most “music as art” that has been practiced alongside traditional performing arts is based on the practical artistry of artists, in other words, it is based on human power, and it has consistently rejected energy other than human power and intervention by equipment in the energy of this expression. The result, however, was to bind “music as art” to old music concepts and styles from before electrical civilization and it led to speculative operation divorced from contemporaneity. For example, we must remember that most modern “music” is understood to be pop music, but not “contemporary music.” However, we do not think that music as art can no longer exist in the electrical civilization and that the “music” in this period of electrical civilization is limited to pop music that is consumed as entertainment. Instead, we seek a totally new way for the religion and art that have been passed down through different cultures on earth since ancient times when human beings started to bury their dead respectfully, and in this electrical civilization, we aim to practice this totally new way through creative activities.

In doing so, we must always be aware of electrical supply, which is the major premise of the activities

as well as, originally, the existence of human beings. Then, in what physical form, how and where is electricity supplied? It is impossible for us to talk about this world without identifying these conditions; however, people have little awareness of the meaning of that fact. For example, in Japan today, ten electric companies supply 100V/200VAC electricity (for homes) and the power grid corresponds to a unit called a “region” beyond the borders between prefectures. In other words, the fact that regional cultures and electric companies are approximately in a one-to-one relationship and the fact that the two areas of East Japan and West Japan are segmented by two types of AC frequency, 50Hz and 60Hz, indicate that the power grid segmentation of each electric company represents the “differences in regional culture,” with which said power grid segmentation should originally have no relationship. In addition, we also focus on the origin of the electricity that each regional electric company supplies. In other words, does the electricity come from the sun or not? As a part of the living beings on earth, we will consistently refuse in the future any electricity that is not from solar energy, which has an almost unlimited supply, by considering it to be plundering of the natural environment on a global level that human beings conduct in the name of “resources.” At the same time, we must accept electricity from the sun, including water power, wind power, solar power, etc. although their concepts are almost the same. Based on this awareness, we will begin our electric art activities by using electricity supplied by Chubu Electric Power, which supplies electricity to the area where the originator lives, and we will aim to develop activities in each regional culture where “Expression With/By Devices” will be given the name of the electric power company.

Needless to say, the regionality of the electricity will not change the works. However, the question now posed to us is how we understand or how we handle the universal electricity that is the extreme assumption of globalized society; for example, it is similar to the way that in western music, expressions unique to composers are enabled by the assumption of a global standard that transcends the identity of regional cultures like orchestras that exist in cities all over the world. It is sure to become a mirror that reflects the identity of regional cultures and the originality of artists under the most neutral conditions possible today. Let’s check. Why electricity? It is because electric power has become a part

of our society, our ideas, and our bodies.

#### Goals, Conditions, and Other Matters for Chubu Electric Power Artists

- Expression With/By Devices using electricity under the Electrical Civilization is called electrical art.
- Chubu Electric Power Artists perform electrical art.
- Chubu Electric Power Artists engage in activities using 60Hz/100VAC electricity supplied by Chubu Electric Company through thermal and hydroelectric power-generation, including the Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant.
- However, Chubu Electric Power Artists are always critical of non-solar-derived electricity, including thermal power generation and nuclear power generation that is the ultimate technology to take energy away from substances themselves.
- We welcome the proactive participation of artists in other areas of electrical culture (including regions using 50Hz) beyond the borders of electric companies, as long as they agree with the ideas of Chubu Electric Power Arts.
- The creation of the Chubu Electric Power Art Declaration was envisaged on the 80th birthday of Mr. Joji Yuasa in the presence of Mr. Yoriaki Matsudaira, and then revised in response to criticism by Mr. Ryuichi Sakamoto.